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Layla Blahnik-Thoune | Visual Editor

Leadership Safari participants play a game of bean bag toss Wednesday, Aug. 23 outside of Powers Hall.

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Layla Blahnik-Thoune | Visual Editor

The Passionate Family gets their picture taken Tuesday, Aug. 22 in the Warriner Mall.

FINDING FAMILIES

First 'post-COVID' IMPACT celebrates in-person with over 200 students

By Aurora Rae
Editor-in-Cheif

For the first time since 2019, a fully in-person IMPACT welcomed incoming Central Michigan University students to campus for three days filled with fun activities, thoughtful conversation and most of all, bonding.

"Our Core Staff has been working so hard this year, more than any other year, because this is the first IMPACT post-covid," said Brenden Seewald, Livonia senior and IMPACT mentor coordinator.

About 230 freshman and transfer students moved into residence halls Sunday to begin their journey at CMU. This year's theme, IMPACT N' Out was inspired by the MTV comedy battle game show, "Wild N' Out."

"We've added a deeper meaning to (the theme)," said Jewel Larkin, assistant director of mentoring initiatives in the Office of Multicultural Academic Student Services.

"Basically, once you arrive you want to start transforming spaces – impacting spaces – that you enter. And then once you continue to be impactful – transformational – you will effortlessly impact spaces beyond CMU."

From Aug. 21-23, students participated in various games, heard from educational speakers and formed lasting relationships in the place they will call home in the coming years.

Created in 2016, IMPACT was designed to build a community for underrepresented students and ease their transition to CMU.

"We are the first people that they're going to see on campus," said Ja'Dore Jones, Ypsilanti senior. "(To show students) they are welcome here and that they shouldn't feel uncomfortable or shouldn't feel that they have to run off or stay in their own dorms just because they don't see people that look like them.≠"

Jones attended IMPACT as a freshman and despite being a mentor for her third year in a row, she said this is the first time her experience as a mentor will not be overshadowed by COVID-19.

"It was very much hands off," she said. "A lot of the (students), their social skills weren't necessarily intact."

Like every year, IMPACT participants were divided into groups called families.

"It's kind of like a family tree, if you will," Larkin said.

Four main groups, called distinct, empowered, resilient and tenacious, were divided into 14 to 16 smaller "families", made up of eight to 10 mentees and two mentors each. Those smaller groups were given names like jubilant, poise and serendipity.

The words were selected, Larkin said, so that "when you hear it, you think about your IMPACT family."

Macomb freshman Bianca Cabarios said meeting friends – and finding her IMPACT family – helped ease her nerves.

"On my drive up here, I was really nervous that I was not going to be as social as I was in high school," she said. "Once I got here, it was so easy because of these people. They make me feel so comfortable."

Cabarios said having mentors who are minorities in a position of power on campus "means a lot" to her.

Detroit junior, Marcus Williams, who became a mentor to support students like Cabarios, said, as a freshman in IMPACT, he felt like his mentors did not support him as much as they should have.

"My father had passed right before I came to school, and it was really hard... And sometimes at moments, I felt like I had really no one to talk to and really no one to rely on," he said.

Williams said he wants to try to encourage anybody who was in a similar position.

"I want (my mentees) to understand that I'm going to always be in their corner," he said.

Larkin said IMPACT, while sometimes viewed as "a program for Black students", is pushing its boundaries and is here to represent all identities regardless of race.

"Yes, it's a minority dominant program, but it's beautiful because of that, too," she said. "(We are) really starting to push that messaging forward about (there is) way more to your identity, in addition to your race."

Layla Blahnik-Thoune | Visual Editor

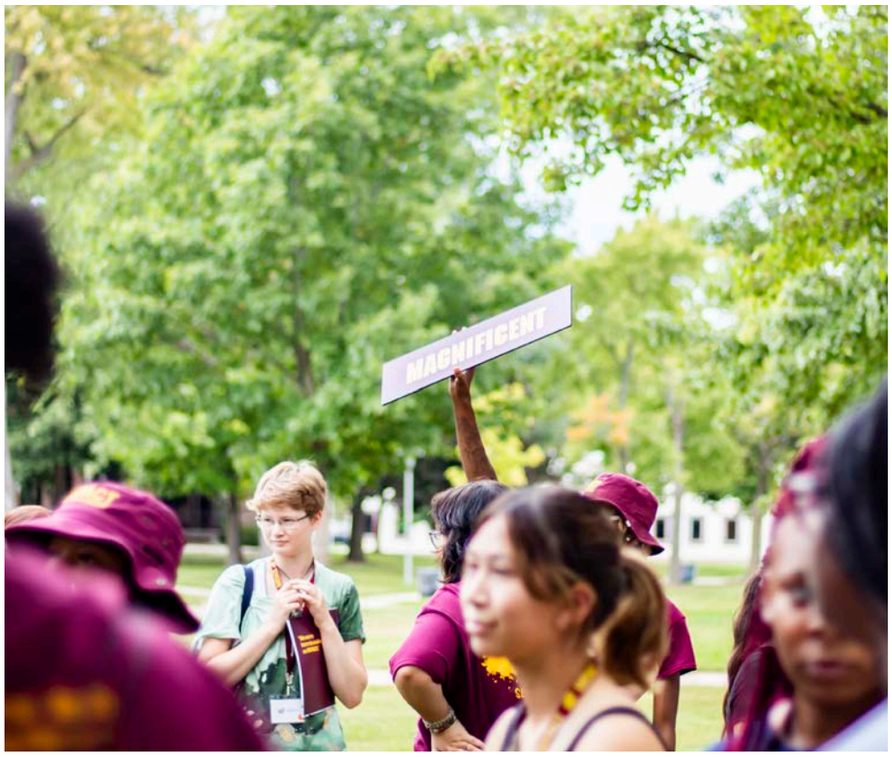
Detroit senior Donovan Pitts-Reed high fives a mentee Tuesday, Aug. 22 in the Warriner Mall.

Layla Blahnik-Thoune | Visual Editor

Detroit freshman Meghan Johnson dances on Tuesday, Aug. 22 in the Warriner Mall. "IMPACT has been really good for me," said Meghan. "I met people that I feel like are going to last the whole freshman year."

Layla Blahnik-Thoune | Visual Editor

Pontiac senior Travell Weatherby leads his family in a discussion Monday, Aug. 22 on the lawn outside of the Park Library. "My group kind of started off a little shy," said Weatherby. "I'm really cracking them out of their shell, having them step outside of their box."



Layla Blahnik-Thoune | Visual Editor

An IMPACT mentor raises their family plaque after the Welcome Ceremony Sunday, Aug. 21 in the Warriner Mall.

Layla Blahnik-Thoune | Visual Editor

Allen Park freshman Blake Jimenez plays ping pong Monday, Aug. 22 in the Student Activity Center. When reflecting on his experience during Impact, Blake said, "The best thing that IMPACT has done for me is make me feel like CMU is the next step in my life."

LONG OUT AS FINANCE VP

Davies announces search committee to find replacement

By Patrick Bouman
University News Editor

President Bob Davies announced he has named a search committee to replace the vice president of finance and administrative services.

After two years in the position at Central Michigan University, Nick Long resigned on July 21. Long joined CMU in July 2020, following the retirement of his predecessor, Barry Wilkes.

During his time at CMU, Long was responsible for the oversight of the Financial Planning & Budgets, CMU Police and Parking, Human Resources, Financial Services and Reporting, Auxiliary Services and Facilities Management divisions.

Long also led informational town hall meetings in Spring 2022 for the Washington Commons project, the residential complex that is part of CMU's Master Plan for future developments.

Aaron Mills, executive director of University Communications, said the search committee will consult with DHR, the same firm that helped hire Long in 2020. Mills said CMU will not have to pay DHR their usual consulting fee because the firm waives the fee if a position is left vacant within two years of it being filled.

The fee is usually one third of the position's first year salary, Mills said. In Long's case, that was about $91,300 in 2020. Mills said Long's total compensation in his first year was about $280,000.

The search committee to find a new vice president of finance and administrative services will review candidates for the position and help select finalists, according to the press release from University Communications.

Ray Christie, senior vice provost for academic administration, will chair the committee. The other members are:

• Lori Hella, associate vice president of human resources.

• Paula Lancaster, dean of the College of Education and Human Services, and member of the Budget Model Steering Committee.

• Larry Lemke, department chair for Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and co-chair of the Budget Priorities Committee.

• Nancy Mathews, provost and executive vice president.

• Chris Moberg, dean, College of Business Administration, and member of the Budget Model Steering Committee.

• Shawna Patterson-Stephens, vice president and chief diversity officer.

While the national search for Long's replacement is underway, Mary Hill, associate vice president of financial services and reporting and controller for CMU, has been appointed to serve in the interim position.

A press release from the university said Hill will work collaboratively with Lori Hella, associate vice president of human resources, and Jonathan Webb, associate vice president for facilities management. They will provide leadership and oversight for operations of the finance and administrative services division, the release said.

Nick Long

Matthews begins role as new provost

Courtesy Photo
Nancy Matthews officially started in the position on Aug. 1, according to a press release from University Communications. Matthews was among five finalists for

By Patrick Bouman
University News Editor

Central Michigan University will have a new provost and executive vice president starting this Fall.

Nancy Matthews officially started in the position on Aug. 1, according to a press release from University Communications. Matthews was among five finalists for the role.

Other finalists for the position were:

• Richard Rothaus, former interim provost and current dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

• Abby Parrill-Baker, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Memphis

• Amy Thompson, senior vice provost of academic affairs, acting dean of the College of Graduate Studies, University of Toledo

• Parwinder Grewal, inaugural president, Vermont State University

President Bob Davies announced the selection on March 18.

"Nancy has a track record of being a collaborative, empathetic and courageous leader with a strong understanding of the challenges and opportunities we face," Davies said in the press release. "She also will bring strong experience and an understanding of shared governance to the position, and she has the ability to interact well with our university's many stakeholders, from students to members of the CMU Board of Trustees."

Each candidate visited campus for an open forum discussion of their plans for CMU. Matthews' forum was on March 3.

"It's not hard to conclude that higher education is indeed in a state of crisis," Matthews said during the discussion.

Mathews said her first priority would be to refocus CMU on academic excellence. She said adding majors more relevant to the changing workforce, continuing to advance in multiple classroom platforms and refocusing on liberal arts and STEM disciplines are all ways that the campus could attract more students.

"We want students to be prepared to lead and become civically engaged," Mathews said. "These are the things that are coming forward in a contemporary curriculum."

She also discussed growth and retention strategies to improve enrollment. Traditional learning styles and newer, online options are also important, Matthews said.

Mathews mentioned redefining the academic year by creating a three-year pathway and offering more co-op opportunities.

She explained that there's an increase in skill-based jobs compared to jobs that require a degree, so training students for those jobs will prove beneficial.

Rothaus served as interim provost starting on Jan. 1 and has returned to his position as the dean of CLASS. He filled in for Mary Schutten, who stepped down Dec. 31, 2021. Schutten started her position in July 2019.

After Schutten announced her departure, faculty supported her decision and expressed frustration with her and other administrators.

Some faculty speculated that the threat of a no-confidence vote in Schutten's leadership may have motivated her to step down.

Washington Commons plans finalized

By Zipporah Abarca
Associate Editor

Central Michigan University had some updates to its landscape over the summer.

The new parking lot, Lot 75, located on the corner of West Campus Drive and West Broomfield Street, opened to the campus community on August 19.

With 1,060 parking spots, it is open primarily to first-year students with a Maroon Resident permit but anyone with a valid CMU parking permit can utilize the space.

It is one of several campus improvement projects taking place.

On Feb. 17, the CMU Board of Trustees voted to proceed with a construction plan for the Washington Commons residential complex. It is proposed to be built where Lot 22 - one the largest commuter lots on campus - currently sits.

Lot 75 was designed to replace and add to the approximately 900 parking spots in Lot 22.

The board also approved improvements to Lot 39 and Lot 43 and the demolition of Kewadin Village by this winter and Northwest Apartments by Fall 2024.

A final decision about the construction of the Washington Commons will be made at the next board meeting on Sept. 22.

Timeline of Washington Commons in Spring 2022

At the Feb. 17 board meeting, students and faculty voiced their concerns regarding the Washington Commons project.

At a Feb. 28 Student Government Association meeting, executive director of student affairs, Kathleen Gardner, gave a presentation on the Washington Commons and said it will help CMU keep up with its competitor universities and appeal to a larger audience.

Two town hall meetings were hosted online and in-person in Feb. and March in which students and faculty criticized and questioned the residence hall proposal.

Last April, the board passed a resolution recognizing the significant enrollment and fiscal challenges but continued with the proposed demolition and construction plans of the Washington Commons.

The board has yet to approve the actual construction of the residence halls, which will be revisited this September.

According to Gardner, Washington Commons will have 179 units available to upperclassmen only, and is projected to cost $135 million. If the plan is approved, construction is planned to start October 2022 and be completed by August 2024.

University launches new parking permit system

By Zipporah Abarcaca
Associate Editor

As you return to campus, some changes like a new parking lot and more in-person activities are obvious. Other campus improvements, like the new parking permit system, are less noticeable from a first glimpse.

Central Michigan University is launching its License Plate Recognition (LPR) technology this fall. It will allow Parking Services vehicles to scan a license plate and determine if it has an active parking permit or any violations.

This change replaces the need for windshield stickers and allows those who park on campus to use their license plate as their parking permit, according to a university press release in the spring.

Parking Services will investigate and issue a citation for vehicles that do not have registered or visible license plates. Those who park on campus will no longer be able to back into parking spaces without a front license plate, which can be purchased online for $10.

Students, faculty and staff can also register, update or change their vehicle/license plate associated with their account on Parking Services website.

A brief YouTube video shows how to register to park at CMU.

A $30 citation will be issued beginning in September 2022 for vehicles who back into or pull through a parking space unless they have a CMU issued front parking plate or a registered license plate mounted on the front bumper of their vehicle.

The new system is expected to save CMU $70,000 annually in operating costs according to the press release. It will reduce fossil fuel and carbon emissions by eliminating the need for plastic permit production, delivery and disposal.

The press release said the LPR system will improve campus safety with a partnership allowing CMU Police to identify stolen vehicles or vehicles that may have been involved in a crime.

For more information, visit CMU's frequently asked questions website or contact Parking Services at parking@cmich.edu or 989-774-3083.

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What to know about COVID on campus

As the fall approaches, few pandemic percautions will be evident on campus

By Staff Reports

COVID-19 regulations have changed rapidly since the pandemic began over two years ago.

Here's the latest on Central Michigan University's pandemic precautions.

According to Central Michigan University's website, masks are optional in all spaces, indoor and outdoor, except those mandated by state or federal government, like health clinics or public transportation.

CMU will not require students, faculty or staff to be vaccinated, however it is strongly encouraged.

"National health leaders – and our own CMU Health experts – still say vaccination is a vital tool in preventing serious illness from COVID-19, and so we strongly encourage every member of our community to receive their full vaccination regimen, including the booster," said President Bob Davies, in a mid-August email to the campus community.

He encouraged anyone who has traveled over the summer to be tested for COVID-19 prior to coming to campus.

Free at-home COVID-19 tests are available at many local pharmacies and for mail order from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website.

Beginning Aug. 29, the first day of classes, CMU will offer COVID-19 testing on campus though weekly testing for non-vaccinated individuals is no longer required.

Visit the Central Michigan District Health Department's website for more information about testing sites throughout the region.

Davies' email said anyone who is feeling sick should stay home. The CMU health screening app is available to report symptoms of COVID-19, or CMU recommends contacting a health care provider.

"Each of us can take steps to protect our own health and well-being, as well as the safety of our friends, classmates and colleagues," Davies said.

Stay updated on the latest Michigan COVID-19 information by visiting the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service's website. Find more information about COVID-19 on CMU's campus by visiting its website.

As flu season approaches, Davies said vaccines for it will be offered on campus. Dates and information for the clinics will be available in the near future.

CMU braces for monkeypox as state case count rises

By Staff Reports

In response to increased monkeypox cases in the state, Central Michigan University Dean of the College of Medicine George Kikano issued a statement to the campus community in mid-August.

Monkeypox is a rare disease that is part of the family of viruses that causes smallpox but is unrelated to chickenpox, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Dr. Kikano said the milder of two strains is currently circulating in Michigan. As of Aug. 23, there are no known cases on campus or in Isabella County, according to the Michigan Department of Human and Health Services.

As of Aug. 23, the CDC reported 138 monkeypox cases in the state and MDHHS recorded the highest case count in the city of Detroit with 38 confirmed and probable cases.

Monkeypox can begin with flu-like symptoms, followed by a rash or sores on the skin. Dr. Kikano said symptoms typically start within three to 17 days of exposure and can last two to four weeks. It can spread from the time symptoms start until the rash is fully healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed, according to the CDC.

The United States declared monkeypox a public health emergency on Aug. 4, mobilizing resources to mitigate the spread of the disease.

Who and how it infects

The CDC said monkeypox spreads through close, personal and primarily skin-to-skin contact.

The virus can also spread when a person is in contact with contaminated material used by an infected individual.

Respiratory secretions can also spread the virus during prolonged exposure, but Dr. Kikano said it cannot be spread through brief conversations or walking by someone with monkeypox.

The CDC estimates about 1.7 million men who have sex with men are most threatened by monkeypox.

Aurora Rae | Editor-In-Chief

COVID-19 testing equipment lays on a table Aug. 25 in the Bovee University Center's vaccine and testing clinic.

The CDC said children under eight years of age, individuals who are pregnant or immunocompromised and individuals with a history of atopic dermatitis or eczema may be at an increased risk for severe outcomes from monkeypox.

Treating and preventing the virus

Unlike in the beginning stages of COVID-19, there are ways to treat and prevent monkeypox. The CDC said the preferred vaccine to protect against the virus is the two-dose, JYNNEOS. It takes 14 days after receiving the second dose to reach its maximum protection.

The ACAM2000 vaccine is a single-dose alternative but is not recommended for people with severely weakened immune systems or certain conditions.

It takes four weeks for its immune protection to reach its maximum and has the potential for side effects and adverse events, according to the CDC.

Currently, Michigan health departments are the only agencies that can provide vaccines per the state's monkeypox strategy. A CMU spokesperson said if students, staff or faculty think they are at risk of exposure, they should talk to their health care provider.

The World Health Organization (WHO) found that prior vaccination against smallpox is about 85 percent effective in preventing monkeypox.

According to the WHO, the case fatality ratio of monkeypox has recently been around three to six percent.

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Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022
Conversations that Matter: Has Education Become Politcal? with Dr. Georgina Wilson
5 to 7 p.m.
Powers Ballroom
**Free to the public with registration; dinner is provided.*

Monday, Oct. 3, 2022
Advanced Explorations in DEI
Online, self-directed
**Free to campus community with registration*

Monday, Oct. 10, 2022
National Indigenous People's Day 2022
All-day
Location TBD
**Free and open to the public*

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022
Soup and Substance: Coming Out Day Special Topic
12 to 1 p.m.
Bovee UC Rotunda
**Free and open to the public with RSVP; soup and rolls provided*

Thursday, Nov. 3, 2022
Emma Norman Todd Lecture Series: Speaker Jeff Chang
6 p.m.
Plachta Auditorium
**Free and open to the public*

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022
Soup and Substance: Native American Heritage Month
12 to 1 p.m.
Location TBD
**Free to campus community with RSVP*

Friday, Dec. 9, 2022
King-Chávez-Parks (KCP) Future Faculty Fellowship (FFF) Research Colloquy
12 to 3 p.m.
Bovee UC Terrace Rooms A&B
**RSVP required*

Friday, Dec. 16, 2022
Staff Cultural Competency Workshop
9 to 11 a.m.
Via Zoom
**Free to all CMU staff with RSVP; topic ARA*

Layla Blahnik-Thoune | Visual Editor
Director of Diversity Education Nikita Murray is interviewed in her office Thursday, March 24 in Warriner Hall.

Driving institutional equity

By Zipporah Abarca
Associate Editor

The Office for Institutional Diversity, Equity & Inclusion will host several events this fall to support student minorities and turn the campus dialogue around antiracism into action.

Throughout the Fall semester, eight events will feature various professionals from Central Michigan University in lecture series, workshops and celebrations "intended to help drive institutional change" Nikita Murry, director of diversity education, said.

She said she wants the campus community to understand the larger context behind the upcoming events this fall.

"We understand that if you don't feel as though you fit in the community - that the community isn't welcoming or if you're having experiences that you think are a form of micro-aggression or exclusion - then you're not going to feel welcome (and) you're not going to be able to give your best self to CMU," she said. "It's our work to help make sure that the entire community is what people need it to be."

Murry has been working with a DEI council, made up of representatives from each academic college, to analyze the campus environment and students' needs.

"Everybody has something that they can contribute to the dialogue," Murry said. "Dialogue is built around the whole idea of just actively listening to one another."

The council is currently working on its diversity report card that highlights the university's success and areas for improvement.

The upcoming events are planned for the Fall 2022 semester.

More information on the location and topic of each individual event will be available closer to the date.

> "It's our work to help make sure that the entire community is what people need it to be."
>
> Nikita Murry
> Director of Diversity Education

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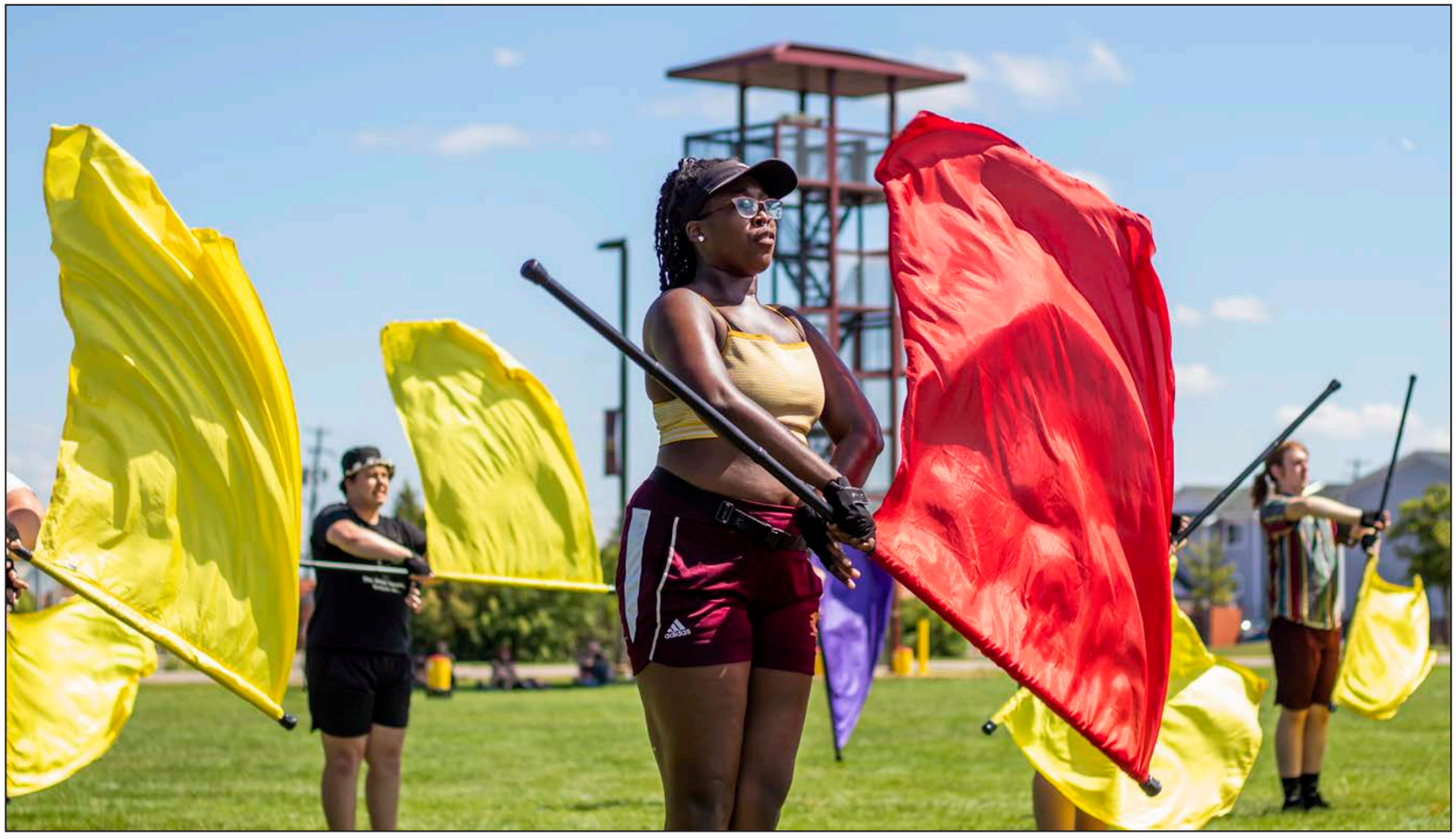

Layla Blahnik-Thoune | Visual Editor

Romulus senior Sarah Hudson practices spinning during color guard practice Monday, Aug. 22 on the marching band practice field.

CELEBRATE WITH CM LIFE

As we enter the 'post-COVID' era, we are here to amplify your experience

Well, Central Michigan University, it seems as though we might have made it to the other side.

Two weeks in March 2020 turned into almost three years of constantly changing pandemic precautions, polarization and panic.

For the first time in three years, we are approaching a full-academic year without any enforced COVID-19 regulations.

Make no mistake, the virus is still very much alive – as are other diseases – but it no longer controls our every move.

Our experiences will not be dictated by COVID-19. Our stories will not be overshadowed by it.

As a result of the pandemic, a significant increase in division was and still is apparent in our country. However, no matter what you believe, we can all agree that returning to campus with more in-person classes, conversations and community members are things to celebrate.

EDITORIAL

So, this semester, do exactly that: celebrate yourself, your friends, your professors and everyone around you.

As you enter this new era in the world and on campus, *Central Michigan Life* is here to celebrate your stories.

For over 100 years, we have been the voice of campus. We have covered everything from students' successes to university scandals.

Like most newsrooms, the size of our team has largely decreased in the past few years. You'll see many of us out in the community and campus this fall, finding and reporting on the things that interest you most – but we need your help to make sure we're giving you the stories you want to see.

This semester, CM Life is launching a QR-code that will be available online, on social media and on flyers around campus by Sept. 1.

Scan the QR-code with your smart phone to access an anonymous tip line, with the option to have your name attached.

We are making CM Life as accessible to students, staff and faculty as possible – so, please take advantage.

We welcome anything you want us to know about campus.

Whether it's someone you know working on an interesting project, an upcoming event, a campus organization, or an issue that's affecting you – we are here to amplify you and your experience, good and bad.

As we approach what will hopefully be the other side of the pandemic, celebrate.

CM Life looks forward to telling your stories.

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Central Michigan Life, the independent voice of Central Michigan University, is edited and published by students of Central Michigan University every Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. The newspaper's online edition, cm-life.com, contains all of the material published in print, and is updated on an as-needed basis.

Central Michigan Life serves the CMU and Mount Pleasant communities, and is under the jurisdiction of the independent Student Media Board of Directors. Dave Clark serves as Director of Student Media at CMU and is the adviser to the newspaper. Articles and opinions do not necessarily reflect the position or opinions of Central Michigan University. Central Michigan Life is a member of the Associated Press, the Michigan Press Association, the Michigan Collegiate Press Association, the Associated Collegiate Press, College Newspaper Business & Advertising Managers Association, the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce, Central Michigan Home Builders Association, Mount Pleasant Housing Association and the Mount Pleasant Downtown Business Association. The newspaper's online provider is SN Works.

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Central Michigan Life's editorial and business offices are located at 436 Moore Hall, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859, telephone (989) 774-3493 or 774-LIFE.

CMU CARES

College students may experience a variety of difficult situations from depression and anxiety to academic and financial challenges. CMU Cares coordinates helpful resources for students, families, faculty and staff to provide the necessary resources to support students during their time of need. The CMU Care Team is comprised of professionals from across campus such as the Counseling Center, Student Disability Services and Sexual Aggression Services.

Know a student in need?

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STUDENT AFFAIRS
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CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

MainStage to kick off Fall 2022

Student activites schedules in-person to mark start of semester

By Gina Hofbauer
Staff Reporter

Once again, MainStage is kicking off the Fall 2022 semester for students at Central Michigan University.

On Aug. 28 from 4 to 7 p.m., MainStage will be held on Franklin street across from the Park Library. Over 300 tables representing registered student organizations (RSO's), campus departments, club sports and more will be available for students to learn about and sign up for.

MainStage was created to highlight the many student clubs and organizations that students at CMU can join. The event, run by the Student Activity and Involvement center (SAI), offers students food, inflatables, entertainment, resources and several giveaways.

"Research shows that when a student is involved outside the classroom, they're more likely to persist through college to graduation," said Molly Schuneman, associate director of student involvement. "We want all of our students to be successful and getting involved is a necessary step."

She said taking the step to join a student organization can change a student's college experience.

Noah Burks, the assistant director of student activities and marketing, said being involved on campus is incredibly important to him.

"I've learned over the years that any program or event that creates a safe space for students and is an opportunity to make a new lasting memory is a favorite of mine," Burks said.

Find more information below on upcoming events and opportunities CMU has planned for this semester.

Friday, Aug. 26, 2022
Movie on the Field
8:30 p.m.
Kelly/Shorts stadium
CMU's Program Board is hosting a showing of "The Lost City". Blankets and pillows are encouraged. Email sai@cmich.edu for more information.

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022
REC-Fest
7 to 10 p.m.
Student Activity Center
Discover programs and services offered at the Student Activity Center (SAC) and Recreation Center. The night will include games, giveaway's, music and refreshments. Email urec@cmich.edu for more information.

Andrew Travis | Staff Photographer
Plymouth senior Chloe Flatley signs up for club volleyball at Mainstage, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021.

Andrew Travis | Staff Photographer
Ovid senior Kennedy Scott, right, dresses as the Earth to advertise for her club, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021at Mainstage.

Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022
Dance Program Advising Session
1 to 2:30 p.m.
Rose 127
The Department of Theater and Dance will host a dance program information session where students can learn about dancing and the program at CMU. Email tromm1hm@cmich.edu for more information.

Monday, Aug. 29, 2022 - Friday, Sept. 2, 2022
String players audition for CMU Symphony Orchestra
Auditions to become a part of CMU's Symphony Orchestra begin the first week of classes. Non-music majors are welcome to audition as well. The sign up is on a bulletin board in the music building. Students are expected to play a short piece for their audition. Email chapm4cc@cmich.edu for more information.

Monday, Aug. 29, 2022
Central Welcome Breakfast
8 to 11 a.m.
Bovee UC Rotunda
Students can receive a free grab-and-go breakfast while meeting several university offices and programs. Email sai@cmich.edu for more information.

Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022
On-Campus Job Fair
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bovee UC Rotunda
Students will have the opportunity to speak directly with over 25 departments face-to-face, find a part-time job or check work study eligibility with Student Employment Services.

Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022
Bar-B-Queer
7 to 10 p.m.
Student Activity Center (SAC)
The LGBTQ Office and Gender Equity Programs presents this event as they "provide a safe place for new and returning students to learn about the office and meet with other students" according to CMU's website. Email urec@cmich.edu for more information.

Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022
Get Acquainted Day 2022
4 to 7 p.m.
Warriner Mall
Students can ask questions and learn about the campus and community as well as meet other students and staff at CMU. Email mass@cmich.edu for more information.

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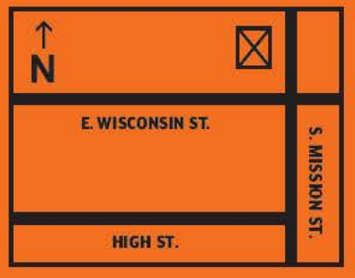

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Richardson looks to dominate M

by Christian Booher
Staff Reporter

After beginning the 2021 season as the backup, Daniel Richardson earned the right to be Central Michigan's starting quarterback in 2022.

Richardson emerged off the bench to lead a stunning fourth-quarter rally in a week four win over Florida International. The Miami, Florida native was named the starter heading into the following week and never relinquished the job.

Going 7-2 over the season's final nine games, Richardson tossed 24 touchdown passes with just six interceptions. The 24 touchdown passes are the most by a CMU quarterback since Shane Morris threw 27 in 2017.

While he has secured the role of signal-caller, expectations will be high for Richardson and the Chippewa locker room. The team won its final five games, including a Sun Bowl triumph over No. 25 Washington State, and returns contributors like Lew Nichols, who led the nation in rushing.

Nichols and Richardson were both part of Jim McElwain's first recruiting class as head coach at CMU. Heading into his fourth year on campus, Richardson is leading the team the way McElwain imagined when he brought him to campus in December of 2018.

In fact, the head coach said his quarterback possesses what all coaches dream of in those they deploy behind center — the 'it factor.'

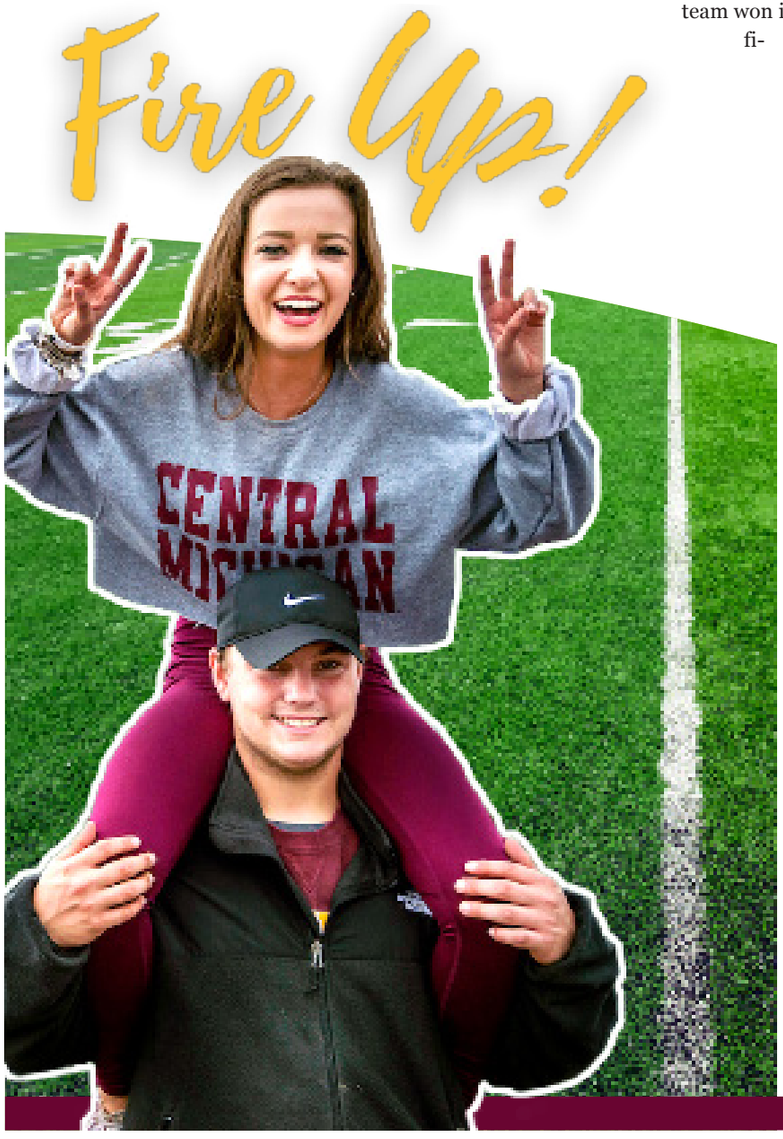
"You hear people talking about 'it' and what is 'it?'" McElwain said. "D-Rich has it. You know, there's a lot of things that go into that. You can coach and coach and coach and coach, and sometimes they just don't get it and it's not for lack of trying. (Richardson) has the makeup, he's got the DNA, he's got that quarterback moxie, the mentality. Let me tell you what, I'm happy he's a Chippewa."

'He's done nothing but stay steady and continue to get better'

Richardson has seen a little bit of ev time at CMU.

First, he entered a and learned behind Tommy Lazzaro and second season was s COVID-19, but he st games before sufferi sprain.

Andrew Travis Staff Photograper
Miami freshman Daniel Richardson awaits the snap against Toledo, Saturday, O



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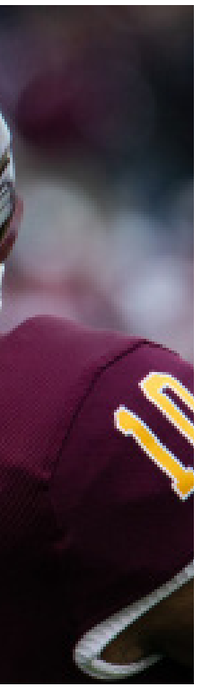
MAC in first full season as starter



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"In that shortened season, now, he was playing pretty darn good but then had the injury," McElwain said. "Then, obviously, the thing that kind of creeps in your mind is durability. I mean, let's call it the way it is."

Last season, he entered the year as the backup behind Jacob Sirmon, a four-star recruit out of high school who transferred in from Washington. Sirmon held the job through the first three weeks, however Richardson tossed a touchdown pass in each game while playing sparingly.

When the Chippewa offense sleepwalked through three quarters in a home tilt with FIU, McElwain called to the bullpen. Richardson entered and led three straight touchdown drives, the last serving as the game-winner when he connected with Dallas Dixon for a 27-yard scoring strike.

Dixon is set to be a primary target for Richardson in 2022. The team loses top wideouts Kalil Pimpleton and JaCorey Sullivan, but Dixon and Richardson have a chemistry that dates back to their days together on the scout team in 2019.

"It was the same as what had been before," Dixon said. "Nothing's changed. Since I've gotten here, we've been grinding, working our way up together you know, the whole way through.
That's my brother.
Nothing else has changed between us, our chemistry is tight, we're ready to go."

This offseason marks the first in McElwain's time as head coach in which the team hasn't brought in a quarterback from the transfer portal. Richardson is undoubtedly the starter — a position he's earned through his performance.

"I can't say enough good things about him," McElwain said. "I mean, we brought him in from the get-go. I knew about him a long time ago. You know, everything we've thrown at him, he's done nothing but stay steady and continue to get better."

Playing point guard

Richardson has an arsenal of weapons around him heading into 2022.

With so many options, like Nichols and Dixon, it's up to the quarterback to disperse the ball accordingly. The Chippewa coaches have great faith in Richardson to do just that.

"He's got a great understanding of what we're trying to accomplish," McElwain said. "He understands the weapons around him and how to deliver the ball and how to be a point guard, and as he continues to play, it gets better. Understanding what exactly what we're trying to accomplish and know what he can accomplish to help us do that. Never get greedy, take the shots when needed, deliver it to the guys that can make something happen."

Through his demeanor, production and reliability, Richardson has cemented his place in the record books. With a solid season, his numbers in completions (264, ninth all-time) and touchdown passes (28, ninth) could place among the best in school history.

Numbers aside, Central Michigan's leader is coming for a championship in 2022.

"The main goal at the end of the day is winning a championship, as you know, win another bowl game," Richardson said. "At the end of the day, the personal stats can take care of the team goals. I mean, the one thing about it is that winning is the main goal. If you're not a winner, none of that stuff matters."

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Students reflect on post-pandemic study abroad

Like all of the world, Central Michigan University's study abroad program was forced into hiatus for several semesters due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This past spring and summer semesters were the first, since 2020, in which CMU students embarked on educational journeys around the world.

"You could tell the excitement was back," said Marko Schubert, assistant director of study abroad. "It was heartbreaking to see for the last two years that every semester we had to tell them, 'Sorry it's not going to work'."

About a dozen students attended classes in six countries last spring and almost 200 students spent their summer in nearly 20 countries.

Central Michigan Life sat down with five of these students to ask about their experience being some of the first CMU students to study abroad since the pandemic started.

Aurora Rae ■ *Editor In Chief*

CM Life: Did you plan to study abroad when you began at CMU and how did COVID-19 change that?

Kaleb Wever: I'm in the Honors Program so one of the big reasons I came (to CMU) was the study abroad scholarship. I tried to build my whole college career around my study abroad. I actually went when I was originally planning to, but I really didn't know if I was officially going until two weeks before I actually left. They weren't letting people go to any country that was a level four or above on the state departments ranking or whatever. France was at a level three when I signed up, but then a couple weeks before, it went up to a level four for COVID-19 so it was unsure if it was going to get canceled or not, which is kind of crazy.

How did you choose the country you studied in?

Brenden Seewald: I always kind of had an interest to go somewhere in Asia. I used to work at a sushi place down by where I lived and the family that owned it was Korean. They would always tell me about how cool it is there because obviously, they're from there, and I just kind of had this fascination with it. And I want to teach English abroad somewhere in Asia so I was like, 'oh, maybe I can go to South Korea, it's offered through Central. If I'm planning to do that later on in life, it'd probably be a good thing to go there beforehand to kind of scope it out, so I'm not just going in there blind.'

What were you nervous or concerned about going into it?

Paige Meyer: If you ask any of my friends, they would tell you that I was super nervous. I'm a very outgoing person, but I didn't know one person going into studying abroad in Rome. It was not a faculty-led program, I did it all on my own. CMU helped me pick which program, but I basically went there blind. I didn't know my roommates; I didn't know anybody that was going. So, I was kind of all alone. My biggest fear was just making friends. When I went to orientation, they said every single college that was there. Michigan State was there, and they had over 10 students and then they said CMU and I was the only one. I was the only one there that was the only one from the university. Everyone else had some students that were at least from their school; I was just all on my own. But I ended up having a great time and meeting a bunch of friends there. Every weekend, we would go somewhere. I went to Venice, Florence, Sorento, Capri, the Amalfi Coast, a lot of places.

What was your experience abroad like and how did it compare to your expectations?

Haylei Drope: I expected to like Italy more than Ireland but I ended up loving everything to do with Ireland. I love the culture. I'm more of a structured person than I realized. I like people giving me an itinerary and in Italy, you needed to build your own itinerary. In Ireland, we had Irish culture night, we had trivia night, we had all these fun things where I really felt like they immersed me into the culture without me having to do it myself.

How did your language skills improve?

Lauren Buffington: I would say my conversational skills improved drastically. Five weeks is a short amount of time, so in that way I kind of wish I was there longer because as soon as I felt more comfortable speaking (Spanish) and trying new things, it was time for me to go. But then in the business setting, I would say I did a lot more listening and having to infer a lot of things that my boss was saying to me and then just run with it. Also, the cultural aspect is different. Her form of feedback and criticism was different than any other boss I had in America. Overall, I think my Spanish improved, especially in comparison to the other students that were there just taking classes. The internship forced me to speak a lot more Spanish than they had to speak because classes were taught in English.

How did study abroad inform your goals after college?

Haylei Drope: I definitely want to do something where I'm able to travel and see the world. It definitely gave me that travel bug everyone talks about. I want to go to all the other places that are over there.

What advice can you give to students considering studying abroad?

Brenden Seewald: Go to the countries that not everyone goes to, just don't do what everyone else is doing. And when you go, fully immerse yourself. Here, I'm a picky eater but I was like 'if I go there, I have to be into everything' and that's what I did. I tried so many different foods that I absolutely loved. Just try to fully immerse yourself as much as possible. Take everything in, experience as much as you can. I'm already trying to plan a trip to go back in a year because there's so many things I didn't get to do there.

Were you able to make connections in your field of interest?

Lauren Buffington: The people I worked with at the non-profit, they invited me to their house for dinner one night. I went there and got to know the informal side of them and they asked me about my life and I got to know them a little bit better outside of work. I feel comfortable going back to them if I ever need anything, especially my advisor there. She's super kind and we still are texting now. She's like, "Send me pictures from your field hockey games." Even the study abroad program advisors that I worked with there were super helpful.

What did study abroad help you learn about yourself?

Paige Meyer: I learned how to be more independent and open-minded because at first, I would get frustrated with myself like I couldn't read any of the ingredients at the grocery store. It took some getting used to. I had never lived in another place that was so far from my family that I couldn't rely on them to help me. Being in another place for a month was very intimidating but you get to learn what works for you and what doesn't. I had to figure out public transit, which was absolutely

Courtesy photo

Brenden Seewald studied abroad in South Korea,

Courtesy photo

Paige Meyer studied abroad in Italy

crazy to think about, but towards the end of my trip, it was no big deal. I had to learn different amounts of money.

That was interesting kind of figuring out how to communicate exchanges.

What was it like getting to see multiple countries in one summer?

Haylei Drope: I did a 3-week program in Ireland, I traveled for a week-and-a-half by myself and then a 6-week program in Italy. Ireland was my absolute favorite. It was absolutely beautiful.

Everyone starts drinking at 3p.m. and it closes at 11. It was also a lot more structured. They had stuff for us planned. The week-and-a-half was insane. I went to London, Paris, Milan and Venice. I saw all these big landmarks in such a short period of time that I never thought I'd be able to see. I sat and read outside the Eifel tower. In Italy, it was so much fun. We had a lot more free time.

What differences did you notice between America and country you studied in?

Kaleb Wever: Lots of the people that I was around over there seem to have a better separation of their work or school from their personal life.

When they left work or left school, they were done with that and they were able to just focus on other things where I feel like here it's much harder for us to turn that part of us off when we leave. Also, the cheese is super good. I lived with a host family so they were able to cook for me.

They cooked me different French meals and I sometimes cooked with them so I got to learn how to make some of that stuff. I appreciate how much knowledge they have on all of their food.

OPINION

Don't wait for a crisis to focus on mental health

Patrick Bouman

University New Editor

Things were looking up for me at the start of this summer. I was excited to be interning for the Traverse City Record Eagle and WCMU Public Radio.

On June 1, my second day in Traverse City, I went rollerblading to exercise and unwind after a day of work, proud of what I got done that day.

I wasn't familiar with the bike trails in the area, which I learned can be essential for someone like me who was still bad at rollerblading. I quickly arrived at a hill I didn't know about and couldn't stop myself from rolling down it. There was a turn coming up and I realized I would have to roll into the grass, but I didn't do it quite right and hit the ground hard.

Only five minutes cost me a dislocated shoulder, a dented bone and a tear. I had on-and-off pain all summer and couldn't get the surgery I needed until a couple of weeks ago.

A day after the injury, I tested positive for COVID-19. The weekend after, I turned 21. Plans with family were cancelled. The man I was staying with and his girlfriend threw me an improvised, socially distanced party. I'm very grateful for their kindness, but it was hard to cheer me up.

It took me a week to recover from the virus but the pain from my shoulder came and went at random. I often missed out on valuable experience from my internship. I felt guilty and couldn't help thinking my newsroom would've been better off with a different intern.

Summer activities I looked forward to, like backpacking in Northern Michigan, were reduced to streaming movies and playing video games. I'm OK with being alone when I can stay busy and active, but most of the time I couldn't do much.

I've never been diagnosed with depression, but some of my thoughts and feelings at the time were close to what I've heard having depression is like. I didn't feel in control of my emotions. Intrusive, negative thoughts constantly creeped into my mind. I had no energy and had infrequent insomnia.

I felt disconnected from my friends and loved ones, which was only made worse by the distance between us. I've never felt comfortable talking about my feelings on the phone. I need an in-person connection.

Asking for help has always been hard for me. I feel like I'm burdening others and I don't want to be misunderstood or judged.

Sometimes when I'm anxious, I act out these hypothetical conversations in my head. I imagine someone saying, 'You're living in Traverse City in the summertime, how could you be sad?'

I waited to find a therapist, even though this wasn't my first time struggling with mental health. I have an appointment in a few weeks.

If you feel like you need help too, there are answers out there.

Melissa Hutchinson, executive director of CMU counseling services, told me many students on campus are nervous to try counseling.

"It's hard to reach out to a stranger and share your most vulnerable thoughts," she said. "We don't take that for granted."

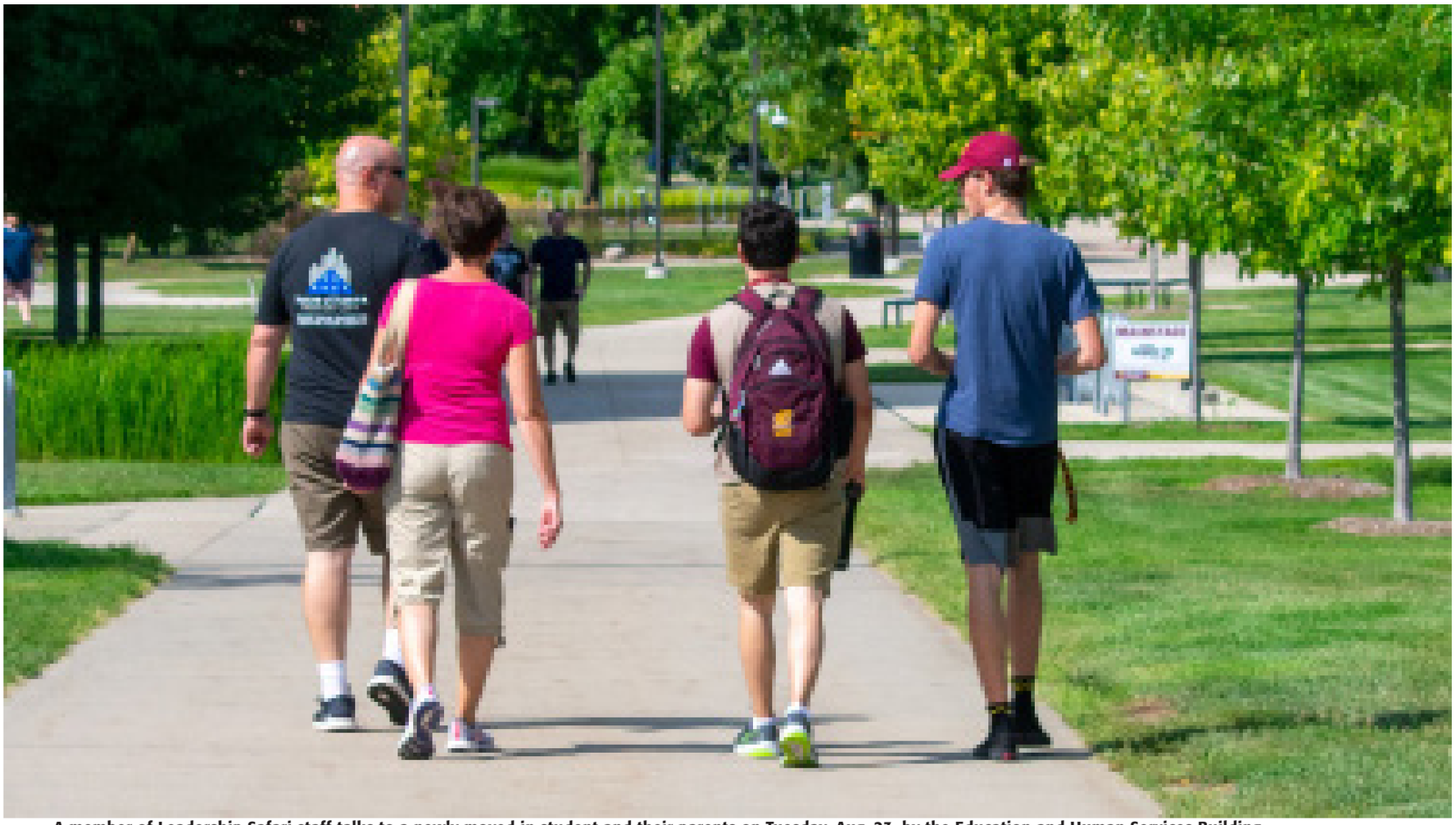
There are nine counselors on staff right now, and the clinic is searching for three more, she said. In addition to in-person counseling services five days per week, the clinic has telehealth sessions, Walk-in Wednesdays, alcohol and drug counseling and group sessions.

Therapy dogs will also return to campus on Sept. 9. Hutchinson said there is an art room in Foust 134, open on Fridays that students can use to relieve stress.

You can also ask your health insurance or doctor to help you find a therapist. A simple search online can lead you to mental health resources.

Don't do what I did and wait for things to get worse before starting to build a support system.

Mental health resources are not reserved for emergencies. It can be easy to forget there are people to talk to. Even if sometimes you feel completely alone, there are professionals and loved ones who care about you and want to support you through your darkest moments.



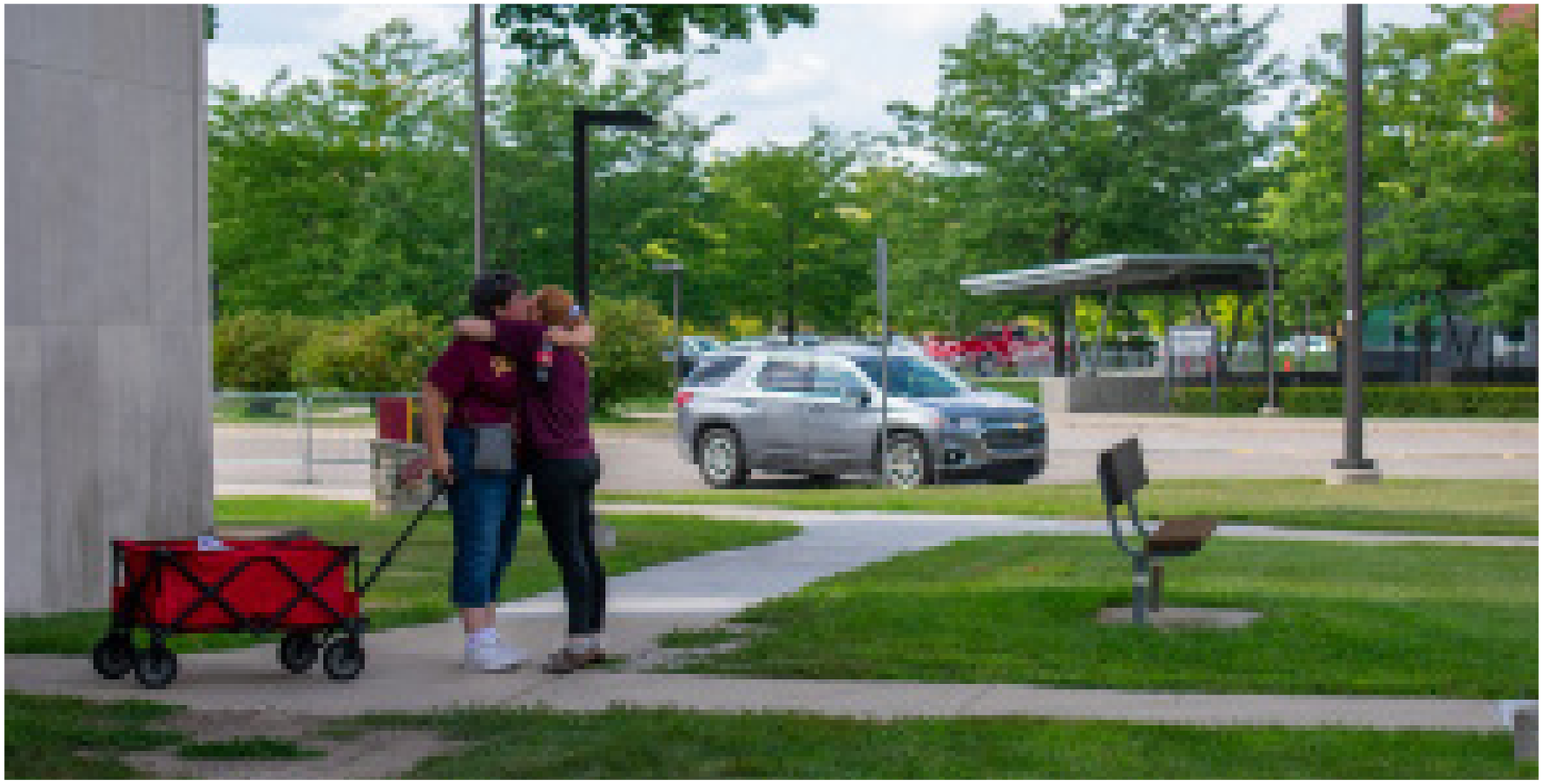
A member of Leadership Safari staff talks to a newly moved in student and their parents on Tuesday, Aug. 23, by the Education and Human Services Building.

Beginnings & Goodbyes

As students begin moving in, and parents help setup residence hall rooms, campus is filled with activity and emotion

Photography by Nate Pappas

A car pulls out of the Celani and Herring parking lot on Tuesday, Aug. 23, by Celani Hall.



A student and parent hug as they say their goodbyes on Tuesday, Aug. 23, outside of Sweeny Hall.

Members of Residence Life staff play games with eachother on Tuesday, Aug. 23, in the SHC lobby.

A member of security staff talks to the driver of a car for move-in, on Tuesday, Aug. 23, by Sweeny Hall.

Regan Foster named Director of Student Media

CSU Pueblo faculty member hopes to begin position first day of classes

Staff Reports

Central Michigan University's student-run media company, Central Michigan Life, will welcome a new Director of Student Media for the first time in almost a decade.

Regan Foster was chosen out of nine candidates by a search committee made up of current and former CM Life journalists. She will replace former adviser Dave Clark.

Foster hopes to begin her position on the first day of classes, Aug. 29.

She said she wants to get a better understanding of the campus community and its needs.

"I'm looking forward to just listening and learning and seeing what works and what we can do," she said.

Foster said she wants to develop stronger connections with organizations and students on campus, especially to increase diversity in CM Life's newsroom and stories.

"I would love to do some focus groups actually," she said. "Having the student leadership sit down with different groups within the campus and again, we could bring in the greater community and say 'Okay, what are we missing? Whose voices are we missing? What stories are we not getting?'"

Courtesy of Regan Foster

> *"I'm looking forward to just listening and learning and seeing what works and what we can do,"*
>
> **Regan Foster**
> Director of Student Media

Foster is currently a lecturer of journalism at Colorado State University Pueblo and faculty advisor to CSU Pueblo student media and the student-run newspaper, The Today.

She said she has recently been working with student media leaders to educate high school students on media literacy, understanding fake news and identifying valid sources. She said she hopes to transfer this work to CM Life.

Foster graduated from the University of Iowa in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and received a Master of Science in Journalism in 2002 from Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism.

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New students and faculty laugh together at the Welcome Reception for New International Students Wednesday, Aug. 24 in the Fabiano Botanical Garden. The event was held by the Office of Global Engagement at the end of the three-day International Student Orientation.

Welcome reception for new international students

(From Left) New students Assadur Jaman Rana, Mishu Ruram, and Tanzila Ferdouse get their pictures taken at the Welcome Reception for New International Students Wednesday, Aug. 24 in the Fabiano Botanical Garden.

Violinist Leonardo Sobral plays arrangments of popular songs at the Welcome Reception for New International Students Wednesday, Aug. 24 in the Fabiano Botanical Garden. All photos taken by Layla Blahnik-Thoune | Visual Editor

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Sibling rivalry drives cornerbacks

Ronald and Donte Kent are the keys to rebuilding Chippewa secondary

By Ryan Colores
Staff Reporter

Andrew Travis Staff Photographer

Harrisburg, PA. freshman Donte Kent jumps over his opponent to nearly come away with an interception against FIU, Saturday, Sept. 25.

After beginning the 2021 season as the backup, Daniel Richardson earned the right to be Central Michigan's starting quarterback in 2022.

Richardson emerged off the bench to lead a stunning fourth-quarter rally in a week four win over Florida International. The Miami, Florida native was named the starter heading into the following week and never relinquished the job.

Going 7-2 over the season's final nine games, Richardson tossed 24 touchdown passes with just six interceptions. The 24 touchdown passes are the most by a CMU quarterback since Shane Morris threw 27 in 2017.

While he has secured the role of signal-caller, expectations will be high for Richardson and the Chippewa locker room. The team won its final five games, including a Sun Bowl triumph over No. 25 Washington State, and returns contributors like Lew Nichols, who led the nation in rushing.

Nichols and Richardson were both part of Jim McElwain's first recruiting class as head coach at CMU. Heading into his fourth year on campus, Richardson is leading the team the way McElwain imagined when he brought him to campus in December of 2018.

In fact, the head coach said his quarterback possesses what all coaches dream of in those they deploy behind center — the 'it factor.'

"You hear people talking about 'it' and what is 'it?'" McElwain said. "D-Rich has it. You know, there's a lot of things that go into that. You can coach and coach and coach and coach, and sometimes they just don't get it and it's not for lack of trying. (Richardson) has the makeup, he's got the DNA, he's got that quarterback moxie, the mentality. Let me tell you what, I'm happy he's a Chippewa."

'He's done nothing but stay steady and continue to get better'

Richardson has seen a little bit of everything during his time at CMU.

First, he entered as a true freshman and learned behind Quinten Dormady, Tommy Lazzaro and David Moore. His second season was shortened due to COVID-19, but he started the first four games before suffering a high-ankle sprain.

"In that shortened season, now, he was playing pretty darn good but then had the injury," McElwain said. "Then, obviously, the thing that kind of creeps in your mind is durability. I mean, let's call it the way it is."

Last season, he entered the year as the backup behind Jacob Sirmon, a four-star recruit out of high school who transferred in from Washington. Sirmon held the job through the first three weeks, however Richardson tossed a touchdown pass in each game while playing sparingly.

When the Chippewa offense sleep-walked through three quarters in a home tilt with FIU, McElwain called to the bullpen. Richardson entered and led three straight touchdown drives, the last serving as the game-winner when he connected with Dallas Dixon for a 27-yard scoring strike.

Dixon is set to be a primary target for Richardson in 2022. The team loses top wideouts Kalil Pimpleton and JaCorey Sullivan, but Dixon and Richardson have a chemistry that dates back to their days together on the scout team in 2019.

"It was the same as what had been before," Dixon said. "Nothing's changed. Since I've gotten here, we've been grinding, working our way up together you know, the whole way

through. That's my brother. Nothing else has changed between us, our chemistry is tight, we're ready to go."

This offseason marks the first in McElwain's time as head coach in which the team hasn't brought in a quarterback from the transfer portal. Richardson is undoubtedly the starter — a position he's earned through his performance.

"I can't say enough good things about him," McElwain said. "I mean, we brought him in from the get-go. I knew about him a long time ago. You know, everything we've thrown at him, he's done nothing but stay steady and continue to get better."

Playing point guard

Richardson has an arsenal of weapons around him heading into 2022.

Nichols will do his thing out of the backfield. Behind him, backup running backs Myles Bailey and Marion Lukes have earned rave reviews from the coaching staff through fall camp.

Out wide, Dixon returns alongside a plethora of new, capable targets.

Andrew Travis | Staff Photographer

Oak Park, Ill. junior Rolliann Sturkey picks his man up and slams him to the turf against NIU, Saturday, Oct. 23.

Transfers Carlos Carriere and Jalen McGuaghy are big wideouts who can make contested catches, while redshirt freshmen Tyson Davis and Saddleback College transfer Sam Hicks can make plays out of the slot.

With so many options, it's up to the quarterback to disperse the ball accordingly. The Chippewa coaches have great faith in Richardson to do just that.

"He's got a great understanding of what we're trying to accomplish," McElwain said. "He understands the weapons around him and how to deliver the ball and how to be a point guard, and as he continues to play, it gets better. Understanding what exactly what we're trying to accomplish and know what he can accomplish to help us do that. Never get greedy, take the shots when needed, deliver it to the guys that can make something happen."

Those who have been around him, like Dixon and Nichols, have known exactly what Richardson has the potential to do. For the younger players, like Lukes, last year was telling.

"I can definitely back up coach Mac saying he's got the 'it' factor, he does," Lukes said. "He's really good on camaraderie, bringing the team together. Whatever he says, people listen to it. People respect him, he's one of the guys, whenever you think of Central Michigan you think of D-Rich. You think of that type of guy that can bring everybody together and whatever he says, people are going to do it. People listen to him, whenever he talks people are quiet."

Through his demeanor, production and reliability, Richardson has cemented his place in the record books. With a solid season, his numbers in completions (264, ninth all-time) and touchdown passes (28, ninth) could place among the best in school history.

Numbers aside, Central Michigan's leader is coming for a championship in 2022.

"The main goal at the end of the day is winning a championship, as you know, win another bowl game," Richardson said. "At the end of the day, the personal stats can take care of the team goals. I mean, the one thing about it is that winning is the main goal. If you're not a winner, none of that stuff matters."

Nichols driven to cement legacy

Nation's leading rusher plans to follow up from his historic 2021 season

By Sean Chase
Sports Editor

Andrew Travis | Staff Photographer

Detroit freshman Lew Nichols III protects the football against potential tacklers in textbook fashion against NIU, on Oct. 23, 2021.

Ending last season as the nation's leading rusher, Lew Nichols III is the preeminent running back in the Central Michigan football backfield as the 2022 season approaches.

As a redshirt freshman, Nichols finished 2021 with 1,848 rushing yards and 16 touchdowns on 341 carries, outpacing Michigan State's Kenneth Walker III and Iowa State's Breece Hall. Both Walker and Hall are currently in the NFL.

Although Nichols would have been a top target in the transfer portal, he said he didn't give it much thought.

"I wanted to follow up the season I had last year with this group of guys," Nichols said. "I mean, I didn't really put too much thought into that."

Instead, as the Chippewa offense looks to retool multiple positions, Nichols has stepped into a leadership role. Running Backs Coach Cornell Jackson said Nichols has gone about it in his way.

"He's done a nice job helping the younger guys in the room," Jackson said. "He's done a nice job on the field motivating guys, but is he a rah-rah get-in-your-face type of player? No, he just turns up the volume with pads on.

"I tell you what, he's having an unbelievable camp. Lew came in shape like he always does, keeping his chin down just a little bit, running hard. Good team leader."

The only question left around Nichols' career is where he will finish in the CMU record books.

Who's Next Up

Like many positions throughout the CMU football team, its running back room has experienced turnover. Previous contributors Kobe Lewis and Darius Bracy transferred during the spring.

However, depth hasn't been an issue in recent years and sophomores Myles Bailey and Marion Lukes are expected to split time behind Nichols in 2022.

"(The) next guy up is Myles Bailey," Jackson said. "He's doing an outstanding job. (Bailey) did a nice job in the offseason and OTAs. He's got the right mindset you know, kid can run and catch and protect the quarterback."

Hailing from North Brunswick, New Jersey, Bailey played in 12 games as a freshman and recorded 245 all-purpose yards.

With the help of Nichols, Bailey spent the offseason working on his patience and believes that will be a major factor in his emergence during year two.

"When I first got in, I kind of had my toes in the water, I didn't know a lot," Bailey said. "I wasn't being patient, you know, I wasn't hitting the holes the way I needed to. But this year, I feel like I'm more patient, more explosive. I worked on that tremendously in the offseason, I feel that is going to impact my game.

"The one thing about me coming in, I was in that high school habit of getting the ball and trying to go, trying to outrun everybody."

Three-headed monster

According to Jackson, Bailey is leading the race for Nichols' backup, but Lukes is also expected to play a large role in the offense.

Already known for his speed, Lukes spent the offseason trying to soak up everything he can from the nation's leading rusher.

"Marion Lukes, he's got good speed," Jackson said. "Saw him last year return a (kick) for I don't know 100 yards. He came in shape and had great OTAs/offseason." He's gotten bigger, I think now he's up to 198."

Spending 2021 primarily as a returner, the Charlestown, Indiana native earned an All-Mid-American Conference Third Team nod after averaging 23.1 yards per return. However, it wasn't until he took a return 100 yards to the house against Eastern Michigan that he felt comfortable.

"It felt like taking off a weight vest," Lukes said. "You've got so much pressure on your shoulders, like coming into college. If you're going to be able to still continue on the success you had in high school and to be able to come out here and do it, it felt really good."

With the value head coach Jim McElwain puts on running the ball, Jackson said Lukes and Bailey have gained the coaching staff's trust.

"We were young last year, Myles Bailey and Marion Lukes were young," Jackson said. "They are not young backs anymore. We feel really confident about them. They've shown us that they can contribute to this football team and when Lew needs a break. We got no problem putting those guys in there."

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Honors investigation canceled

Staff Reports

Nate Pappas Staff Photographer

Hayley leads a chant as the group makes their way past Warriner Hall, April 16, in Warriner Mall. While Hayley essentially planned and organized the entire protest, her fellow leader, Gwen Hackett, led many of the chants during the actual event.

The Central Michigan University Honors Program has had several changes over the summer, including the cancellation of an external investigation into the program and the resignation of its program director, Nicole Barco.

On April 8, 2021 CMU's Office of the General Counsel tasked Mary Martinez, interim executive director of the Office of Civil Rights and Institutional Equity, and Beth Timmerman, director of Internal Audit, with conducting an examination of CMU's Honors Program and its office.

About a year before the report's release, Barco eliminated the Honors Program associate director position, held at the time by Judy Idema. Idema is now assistant director of student engagement, diversity and wellness for the College of Medicine.

On April 16, 2021, a group of students, who alleged Idema's removal was "unjust," gathered to protest Barco's decision.

On April 14, members of the Honors Program received the report of findings from Martinez and Timmerman. The report listed several "themes," including concerns with hiring processes, office culture, the removal of the associate director position and human resources management.

"There was a consistent theme that staff did not know who they could trust," the report reads. "With everyone being overwhelmed and lacking trust, the Honors Program Office environment became unhealthy."

Student Government Association President Taylor Idema criticized the report at the April 19 Academic Senate meeting, saying the Honors community was "left with a lot more questions than answers."

At the May 3 Academic Senate meeting, former Interim Provost Richard Rothaus announced an external investigation after he said new concerns "motivated others to come forward" with other allegations of problems in the program.

"These include significant ethical and behavioral allegations involving faculty, staff and students," Rothaus said at the senate meeting.

As of Aug. 12, a spokesperson with University Communications said CMU is no longer moving forward with the investigation and provided a statement from Rothaus.

"The parties that brought forth complaints and the interim director are in agreement that it is not in the best interests of the program to conduct another investigation," Rothaus' said statement said. "We think we have reached a transition point with the Honors program where people are ready to look forward."

On July 26, a University Communications press release announced Barco was stepping down from her position as Honors Program director. As of Aug. 16, she has returned to a faculty teaching and research position in the Department of English Language and Literature.

Barco was appointed as director for a three-year term from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023 by former Provost Mary Schutten. She replaced Phame Camarena in the role, who is now the dean of New Mexico State University's William Conroy Honors College.

The Honors Program Director is responsible for chairing the Honors Council as a non-voting member, as well as course scheduling, overseeing the Centralis scholarship program and developing honors-designated courses.

Before she was the Honors Program director, Barco was the Cultural and Global Studies program director. She was also a Presidential Administrative Fellow for the 2019-20 academic year.

Patty Williamson, the chairperson of the Honors Council, will serve as interim director. To find a permanent r eplacement for Barco, Harris said Patton will meet with the Honors Council early this fall to review the position's description and set up a timeline for the search.

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- **September 17th:** -Football vs Bucknell
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Don't expect perfection. Expect growth instead.

McKenna Golat

Staff reporter

Dear incoming freshmen: Don't expect perfection. Expect growth instead.

In 2018, I came to Central Michigan University with my entire future planned out. I wanted to be a teacher, which was the entire reason I chose CMU. My plan was to graduate as a secondary education major and then go on to teach German and English Literature. I wanted to stay in Michigan and live a quiet life. Maybe even return to the Upper Peninsula. This was my "perfect" plan.

After four years here, however, all of that has flown out the window. To tell you the truth, I couldn't be happier.

You may be coming to CMU with your major planned out and with RSOs picked to join. You, like me, came with a "perfect" plan. But if you find that what you chose isn't working out, don't panic or be afraid. This is an opportunity to change your mind and grow.

I used the fall semester of sophomore year to explore majors. Journalism was one of them. To be honest, I took that first journalism course for a writing credit. I didn't expect to enjoy that class as much as I did. But this class re-awakened my childhood love of telling stories. Thankfully, my professor saw my potential and said I should consider signing journalism as my major. Her belief in me, and the inspiration I felt during this class, caused me to change my mind.

Changing my mind about what I wanted to do was the best thing I could have done. Even though it wasn't perfect right away, I was happier than ever. My advice to everyone at CMU, not just the incoming freshmen, is to not expect perfection, from the university or from yourself.

If I hadn't changed paths, I would not have found Central Michigan Life. I wouldn't have met the incredible, like-minded people who I now call family. I don't know where I would be without them. They are, without a doubt, the reason I became a journalist. So, when I look back on my time at CMU, I will think of CM Life and the people who helped me become the person I am today. Even though I'm graduating and will no longer be on this campus, I can confidently say CM Life will always be my home.

As we say in the newsroom, "CM Life for life."

CMU has its own phrase echoing this sentiment. Across this campus, we say 'Fire Up'. This phrase is a call for community for everyone who has attended this university. It means you will always be a part of this campus, wherever it is you end up. Seriously, say 'Fire Up' anywhere in public and someone will answer your call. Better yet, just wear anything with CMU on it, and someone will shout 'Fire Up' at you. It's happened to me so many times.

The phrase 'Fire Up' is a reminder that you will always have a home on this campus.

CMU is not a perfect university by any means. But then again, what college campus is? Anyway, I wouldn't change anything from my four years here. CMU is where I found my passions and community. I grew into a better student, person and journalist.

So no, my time at CMU wasn't perfect. But it's my alma mater. It's a place I'm proud to have called my home for the past four years.

Now, it's your home. Welcome and Fire Up!

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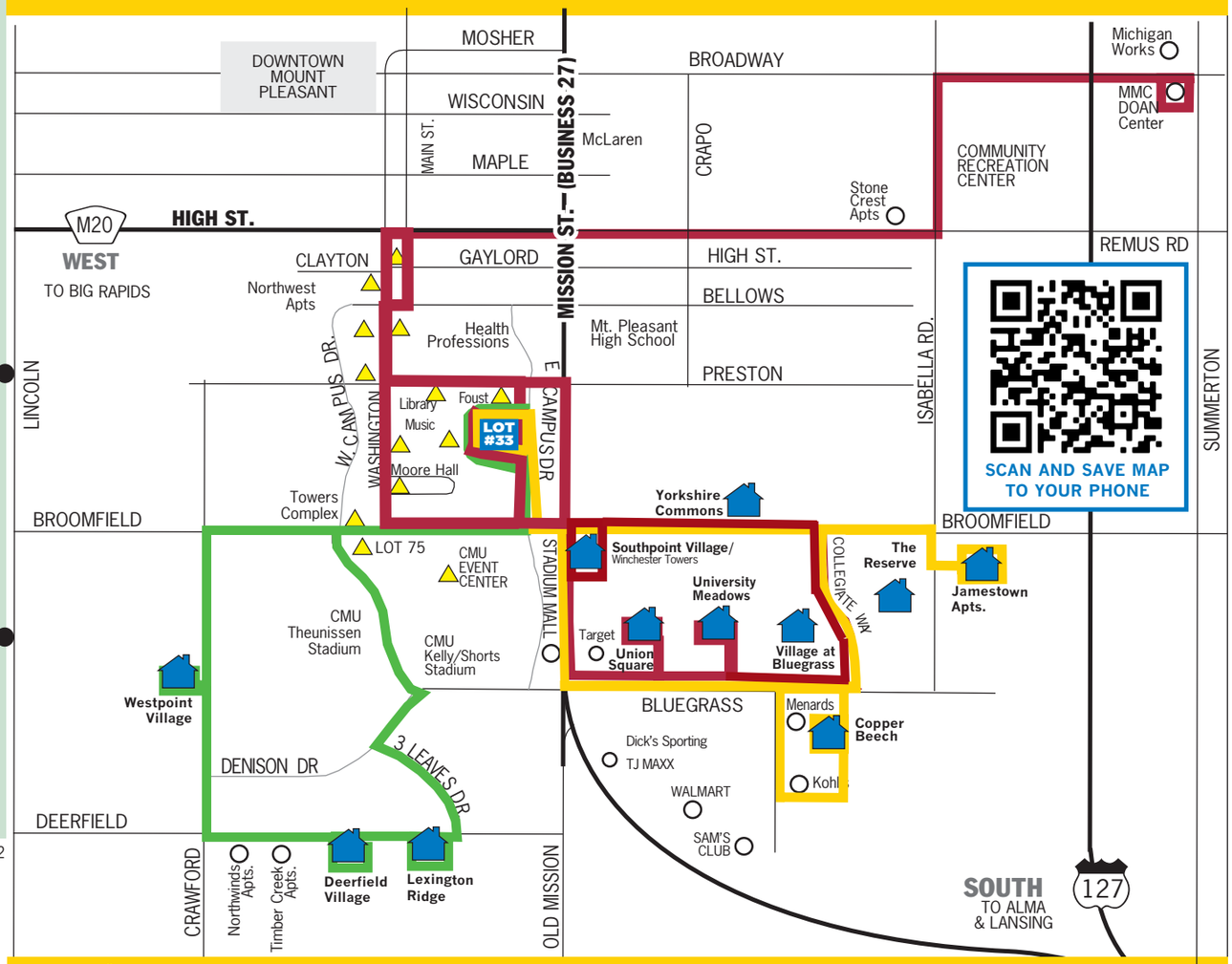
EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2022

COMMUTER SHUTTLE ROUTES



COMMUTER SHUTTLE:

MONDAY - FRIDAY 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

8:00PM & 10:30PM RETURN FROM PARK LIBRARY TO APT. COMPLEXES ONLY

REQUEST STOPS: ○ REGULAR FARE $2.00

EVERY HALF HOUR SHUTTLE STOPS:

△ **BUS STOPS**
No fare collected/prepaid stops by contract with our partners

⌂ **APARTMENT COMPLEX STOPS**
Rides for residents prepaid by complex

BE SEEN! Step to the curb and wave

I Ride

ictcbus.com

All buses flex 1/4 mile of published route, call ahead for service

COMMUTER SHUTTLE OPERATES LATE AUGUST THROUGH EARLY MAY
WHEN CMU CLASSES ARE IN SESSION

(989) 772-9441

BRINGING YOU THE BEST IN LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

KID ROCK
WITH BUCKCHERRY

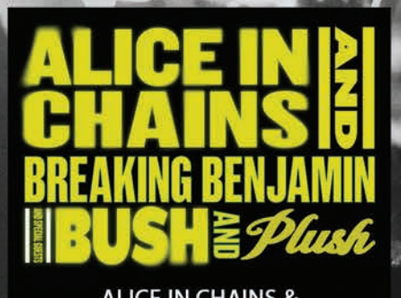
SATURDAY, SEP 3 | 8:00PM
$49. $132. $164 & 195

KID ROCK
WITH BUCKCHERRY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 | 8:00PM
$49. $132. $164 & $195

WIZ KHALIFA
AND G-EAZY

SATURDAY, SEP 10 | 8:00PM
$26, $65, $82, $94



ALICE IN CHAINS &
BREAKING BENJAMIN
WITH BUSH AND PLUSH

FRIDAY, SEP 23 | 6:30PM
$32, $70, $90, $100

BOURBON & BACON

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 | 6:30 PM
GA- $75 doors at 730pm **VIP**- $125 doors at 630pm

RINGO STARR
AND HIS ALL STARR BAND

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 | 8:00PM
SOLD OUT

LEE BRICE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8 | 8:00PM
$44. $54. $72. $78

RON WHITE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 8:00PM
SOLD OUT

Complete show lineup available at SoaringEagleCasino.com

Visit the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort box office, purchase two or more tickets (*prior to day of show) to any show with cash or credit and receive **$20 in Premium Play** on the day of show.

Get your tickets at **Soaring Eagle Casino** or **Saganing Eagles Landing Casino Box Offices,** ETIX.COM or call 1.800.513.ETIX.

soaringeaglecasino.com Mt. Pleasant, MI | 1.888.7.EAGLE.7

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CASINO & RESORT®